

Parents

Are

Liaisons to

Schools Network



Arizona Department of Education

C. Diane Bishop, Superintendent

March 1991



Parents Are Liaisons to Schools

Purpose of PALS:

Active parent involvement with schools benefits student performance. Parent participation is needed for team decisions in special education meetings which makes it even more important for parents to be involved with their child's school. The best parent-school relationships are built on a foundation of mutual respect and trust.

Since parents are often considered as "consumers" of special education services, parent input is also needed at the state level prior to finalizing state planning. In an effort to increase parent involvement in Arizona's schools, the Arizona Department of Education/Special Education Section (ADE/SES) formed a constituency of parents called PALS. The goals for PALS include:

- > increasing parent involvement at the state and local school level in order to build partnerships and mutual respect;
- > establishing a statewide information network of parents to support/respond to state special education initiatives; and
- > providing an avenue for parental input into statewide planning for special education services.

How PALS Representatives Were Selected:

In 1988, the Arizona Department of Education/Special Education Section identified schools with on-going parent involvement and requested those districts to nominate parents willing to work with ADE/SES staff. The focus is to work toward increased parent involvement statewide. From the nominations received, PALS members were selected to represent parents of students in special education from all age levels across the state.

Role of PALS Representatives:

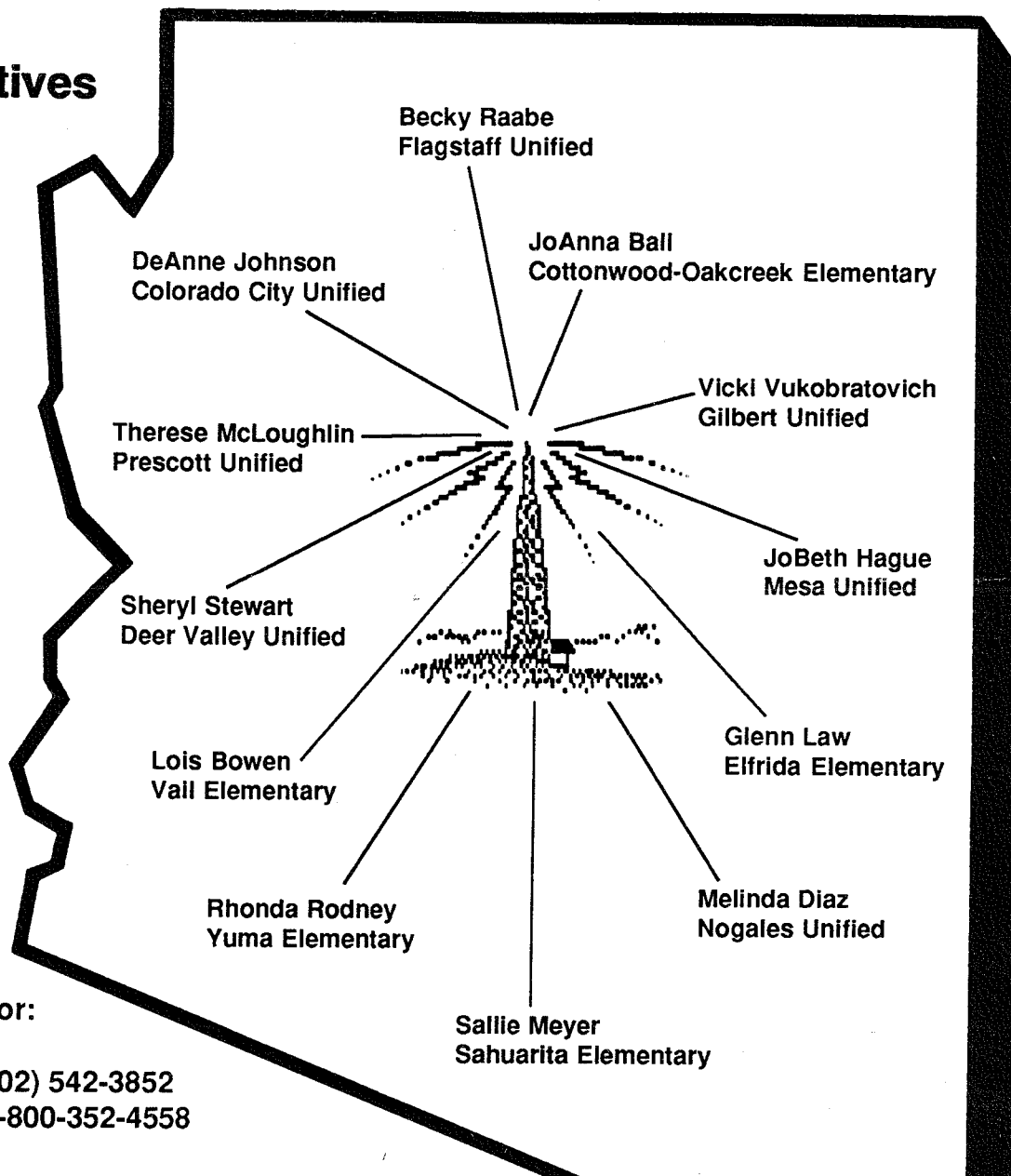
PALS representatives serve as liaisons between parents from schools in their region and the state. Another role is to provide parents with requested information on relevant special education issues. PALS are intended to become the "connection" between parents, the ADE/SES and districts for relaying information on timely issues, training needs, etc. They are available as a regional contacts for other parents by:

- > providing general assistance to parents, Parent Contacts and school administrators;
- > exchanging information on . . .
 - status reports for current legislation and proposed legislation
 - local or regional resources, services and other allied organizations
- > assisting to establish or strengthen local parent support groups or special education advisory committees.



P.A.L.S. Representatives

(by District)



ADE/SES Facilitator:

Rita Kenison

Phone number: (602) 542-3852

Hotline number: 1-800-352-4558